

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

709.36924X00

Applicant(s): DUGAN, et al.

Filed: September 3, 1999

For:

MULTI-COMPONENT FIBERS, FIBER-CONTAINING
MATERIALS MADE THEREFROM AND METHODS OF MAKING
THE FIBER-CONTAINING MATERIALS

31518 U.S. PTO
09/390289
09/03/99

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

September 3, 1999

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find copies of documents to be considered by the Examiner during examination of the subject matter of the above-identified application. Also enclosed is a Form, substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, listing the enclosed documents.

The enclosed documents are being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-identified application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that present submission of the documents satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(b).

Of the enclosed documents, various are discussed in Applicants' specification.

In addition, attention is respectfully directed to the enclosed PCT International Application (published) No. WO99/19131. This patent document discloses in-line fiber splitting in a spunbond process, achieved by differential heat shrinkage of two or more components of a plural-component

fiber, such as a ribbon-shaped bicomponent fiber. This patent document discloses that after fiber separation, the web is bonded to form the non-woven fabric. This patent document further discloses that, in accordance with the through-air bonding technique, as heat is applied to the web, the temperature of the web rises to a point at which differential shrinkage of the high-shrinkage polymer component occurs. As heat continues to be applied, the temperature of the web rises to a temperature at which the high-shrinking polymer becomes tacky and begins to melt, allowing the segments formed of high-shrinkage polymer to bond to adjacent polymers.

Note that this International patent application discloses that the temperature of the web should rise to a temperature at which the high-shrinkage polymer becomes tacky and begins to melt. Such disclosure would have neither taught nor would have suggested the bonding due to melting of one of the polymer materials of the fiber, the bonding in the International patent application occurring due to tackiness arising upon softening of the high-shrinkage polymer.

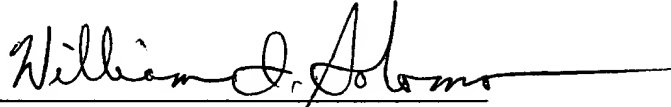
In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all requirements of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the presently submitted documents. Accordingly, consideration of these documents, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this

paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit
Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 709.36924X00) and please credit
any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", written over a horizontal line.

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WIS/slk
Enclosures